

NEWSLETTER of the WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH
BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION
1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.
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NO. 2

Calendar

Latest Dates For Contests

	<u>Drama</u>	<u>Debate</u>	<u>Speech</u>
League Contests	Nov. 12		March 18
District Contests	Nov. 19	Jan. 21	April 1
Sectional Contests	Dec. 3	Feb. 4	
State Contests	Dec. 10	Feb. 25	April 15

Please try to avoid scheduling school activities which conflict with the above dates.

We suggest that you punch holes in this News Letter and keep it and the two following ones in the red cover you received with your September issue.

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BOARD OF CONTROL

Northern Section

MABEL NELSON
Chippewa Falls

Eau Claire District

C. L. DODGE
Mondovi

River Falls District

DARYL K. LIEN
Amery

Superior District

H. F. CONNORS
Hurley

Central Section

W. G. SCHMIDT
Kaukauna

La Crosse District

K. A. CURRAN
Cashton

Oshkosh District

H. H. HELBLE
Appleton

Stevens Point District

A. MOLDENHAUER
Mosinee

Southern Section

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Platteville

Milwaukee District

N. E. COLBY
West Bend

Platteville District

EVERETT J. HILL
South Wayne

Whitewater District

A. C. JONES
Verona

A. C. JONES, *Chairman*
Verona

PROFESSOR A. T. WEAVER
Advisor in Speech
University of Wis.

ROBERT K. SCHACHT, *Sec'y-Treas.*
University Extension Division

PROFESSOR ROBERT E. GARD
Advisor in Dramatics
University of Wis.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

WHSFA

Your Wisconsin High School Forensic Association is entering its 25th year of operation under its present name. It is composed of over 400 member schools which participate in the association's activities. Its origin has been traced back as far as 1895, when it was known as the Wisconsin High School Lyceum Association of Wisconsin. In 1925 a group of high-school principals met at the time of the state teachers' convention and elected a committee to revise the rules which were governing the Wisconsin High School Lyceum Association and to draw up a constitution. A constitution and a new set of rules and regulations was adopted and the name of the association changed to its present one. The new association became affiliated with the Department of Debating and Public Discussion of the University of Wisconsin Extension Division. Last year the name of this department was changed to Bureau of Information and Program Services.

If your school is not a member of WHSFA, why not join and take advantage of the services offered to member schools. Registration entitles you to enter contests and attend institutes sponsored by the association. Each year member schools also receive without charge one copy of Winning Orations, some new cuttings prepared for use in our speech contests, and helpful articles pertaining to speech and drama. Schools participating in debate and drama receive additional free materials.

Any public or private high school in Wisconsin may become a member. The annual dues are:

\$5.00 for schools with enrollment to 149

7.50 for schools with enrollment 150 to 349

10.00 for schools with enrollment 350 or more.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Sources for Debate Materials

The WHSFA will furnish free to each school enrolled in debate one copy each of Volume I and Volume II of the current Debate Handbook. Additional copies may be ordered for 85¢ each.

Debate handbooks on the high-school question are prepared by Professor Hugo Hellman, of the Speech Department, Marquette University, Milwaukee, and by J. Weston Walch, Publisher, Box 66, Pearl Street Station, Portland Maine.

The NDEA COMMITTEE ON DEBATE MATERIALS offers a complete debaters' library containing:
• The Reference Shelf; Volume II of the 23rd Annual Debate Handbook; Editorial Research Reports; Louis Bean's How to Predict Elections; the Congressional Digest; and certain free materials for \$4.90.
Order from

NDEA COMMITTEE ON DEBATE MATERIALS
1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.

Make checks payable to NDEA COMMITTEE ON DEBATE MATERIALS
Bureau of Information and Program Services

The services of the Bureau of Information and Program Services are available to you. This bureau operates a LOAN PACKAGE LIBRARY SERVICE and welcomes the opportunity of helping students of Wisconsin high schools through the loan of study materials. Loan packages may be secured on almost any subject. The only requirements are:

The request must be approved by the teacher.
The user pays the return postage

For such service address:
Robert H. Schacht, Director
Bureau of Information and Program Services
University of Wisconsin Extension Division
Madison 5, Wis. --4--

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Definitions of Debate Terms

As given in Volume I - Official Debate Handbook
President: The term "President" includes the "Vice President" and refers to the chief executive officer of the United States.

Direct Vote of The People: The qualified voters casting their ballots for a given candidate for the presidency, as opposed to the present plan of voting for electors who, in turn, vote for the President and Vice President. It is also presumed that "direct vote of the people" means that the total number of votes cast, regardless of state boundaries, will determine the successful candidate.

Elector

One of the persons chosen, by a vote of the people, to the electoral college, the function of which is to elect the President and Vice President of the United States. Each State is entitled to as many electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress.

Electoral College: The body of presidential electors of a state; also the whole body of presidential electors from the several states.

The secretary-treasurer has often been asked to clarify certain debate terms. However, it is a long-standing policy of the Association, and also of the NDEA COMMITTEE ON DEBATE MATERIALS, of which the secretary-treasurer is a member--not to issue any opinion which might be regarded as official. It is the judgment of the Committee on Debate Materials that each individual debate is a unit, that it is the province of the affirmative team to define the proposition which it supports and it is the duty of the negative team either to accept the affirmative proposition or to show cause why the proposition is not acceptable.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Drama

League drama contests are now under way and for many of the drama coaches this has been a hectic season, coming as it does so soon after the beginning of the school year. Many of you are new teachers and have not been through the experience before. Many of you were not aware of the rule which stated that plays to be entered in the drama contest should be registered at the state office on or before October 15th, although copies of the rules were printed in the September News Letter, which should be on file in your principal's office or your school library.

Observing the latest dates for entering contests is very important in that it helps avoid a great deal of confusion by giving the district chairman ample time to set up league and district contests. We hope that by stressing the importance of observing these deadlines this year we may avoid some of the confusion next year. Principals should make note of the rules and impress upon the coach the necessity for doing so.

This year a record number of schools (108) have registered for league and district drama competition.

The November issue of Dramatics Magazine has an excellent article, written by Ernest Bavely, Executive Secretary of the National Thespian Society. One point he stresses is that selection of plays should begin long before the play is to be produced. Selections made under pressure, under requirements to meet a deadline, are rarely good selections. If a group plans to enter a drama festival or contest, it is most important that the choice be made as early as possible in the season and not be postponed until three weeks before the date of the contest.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Drama

Each year drama coaches in Wisconsin high schools are given the opportunity to check our play list, and make note of the plays which should be kept on the list and those which should be taken off the list. Also, drama coaches are asked to send in a list of titles which would make good additions to the present list.

A check list is enclosed with this News Letter. Will drama coaches take a little time and give the list serious consideration? Last year only 11 drama coaches complied with this request. Surely more than 11 of you are interested in the type of plays recommended for high schools.

State Drama Contest List

The State Drama Contest will be held Saturday, December 10 at Bascom Theatre, 272 Bascom Hall, on the University campus. Schools receiving "A" ratings in the sectional contests will automatically be scheduled for the state contest. Directions will be mailed to these schools as soon as we receive the results of the sectional contests. Visitors are welcome at the state contest.

Wisconsin Idea Theatre Quarterly

We are happy to be able to enclose with this News Letter a copy of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre Quarterly, devoted to high school dramatics. We urge the principal to read it first and then route it to all interested teachers.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Election Results

We are happy to introduce as a new member of the Board of Control, Miss Mabel Nelson of Chippewa Falls, who was elected chairman of the Northern Section for a three year term.

Re-elected to new three-year terms were:

- Al Moldenhauer of Losinee,
Chairman of Stevens Point District
- H. F. Connors of Hurley,
Chairman of Superior District
- N. E. Colby of West Bend,
Chairman of Milwaukee District

Any questions relative to league or district matters should be referred to your district chairman. Questions relative to sectional contests should be sent to your sectional chairman.

University Debate Transcript Available

A transcript of the debate on direct election of the President between the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University which was given at Milwaukee during the meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Teachers of Speech is available without charge from Professor Hugo Hellman, of the Speech Department, Marquette University, Milwaukee.

Cards have been mailed to all schools participating in debate work asking the coaches to send in suggestions for next year's debate topic. If you did not get such a card and have ideas which you think should be considered, please send them to the state office by December 15.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

We recommend For Your Reading

- Improving Declamation Contests. Margaret Robb.
The English Journal, Sept. 1949. P. 397-8.
- Let Us Keep Debating In Our Schools. Wm. G. Carleton.
Vital Speeches, Sept. 1, 1949. P. 703.
- How To Select The One-Act Play, Ernest Savely.
Dramatic Magazine, Nov. 1949. P. 8-9.
- Discussion In High Schools. Albert Harrington and
Harold Jordan. Speech Activities: Autumn 1949.
P. 101-5.
- Specimen Debate on High School Question.
Speech Activities, Autumn 1949. P. 108-9.

Sources for Speech Materials

Cuttings of published materials are permitted but permissions or royalties, where necessary, must be the concern of the school using the material.

A list of declamations and orations available from the state office goes out to each school as the dues are received.

Publishers of speech materials were listed on p. 21 of the September News Letter.

Extemporaneous Reading

A new procedure is to be used in the extemporaneous readings contests this year. Be sure to read and study carefully the rule on P. 14, of the September News Letter.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Check These Dates

League Chairmen: Please do not schedule any league contests on these dates.

January 14--Annual High School Debate Tournament
Eau Claire State Teachers College
c/o Grace Walsh

January 28--NFL State Debate Contest
c/o Bruno Jacob, Ripon College

March 24-25--NFL State Forensic Contest
c/o Bruno Jacob, Ripon College

WHSFA CONTEST SCHEDULES

<u>DRAMA</u>		
<u>Northern Section</u>	<u>Central Section</u>	<u>Southern Section</u>
	Dec. 3	Dec. 2
<u>Eau Claire</u>	La Crosse	Milwaukee
	Nov.	Nov. 19
<u>River Falls</u>	Oshkosh	Platteville
	Nov. 19	Nov. 16
<u>Superior</u>	Stevens Point	Whitewater
	Nov. 19	Nov. 18

<u>DEBATE</u>		
<u>Northern Section</u>	<u>Central Section</u>	<u>Southern Section</u>
	Feb. 4	Feb. 4
<u>Eau Claire</u>	La Crosse	Milwaukee
	Jan. 21	Jan. 21
<u>River Falls</u>	Oshkosh	Platteville
	Jan. 21	Jan. 21
<u>Superior</u>	Stevens Point	Whitewater
	Jan. 21	Jan. 21

<u>SPEECH</u>		
<u>Northern Section</u>	<u>Central Section</u>	<u>Southern Section</u>
<u>Eau Claire</u>	La Crosse	Milwaukee
April 1	April 1	April 1
<u>River Falls</u>	Oshkosh	Platteville
April 1	April 1	April 1
<u>Superior</u>	Stevens Point	Whitewater
March 31	April 1	April 1

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Minutes of the 23rd Annual Meeting
Of the WHSFA
Pflister Hotel, Milwaukee, Nov. 4, 1949

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman A. C. Jones, at 4:20 P. M. Thirty members of the association, including seven board members were present.
- The chairman reported the results of the election and introduced the board members present.
Election Results
Stevens Point District- Al Moldenhauer, re-elected for a three-year term
Superior District- H. F. Connors, re-elected for a three-year term
Milwaukee District- F. E. Colby, re-elected for a three-year term
Northern Section- Miss Label Nelson, elected for a three-year term.
- It was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of last year's annual meeting since each member school had been sent a copy and to have the secretary-treasurer summarize the minutes of the March and November meetings of the Board of Control.
- Attention was called to the changes in the rules as italicized in the September News Letter.
- Debate coaches were asked to respond to the poll of ideas for next year's debate topic currently being conducted.
- Drama coaches were asked to respond to the evaluation poll of our one-act play list being conducted prior to assembling next year's official list.
- Speech coaches were asked to send ideas for an appropriate theme for next year's four-minute speech contest to Mr. Lien, Mr. Moldenhauer, Mr. Dodge, or, to the state office.
- Attention was called to the discussion of the high school debate question by the National Reviewing Stand, Sunday, Nov. 13, at 10:30 A. M.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

9. The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the WESFA to the State Teachers Colleges, the University of Wisconsin, and our two advisors, Mr. Robert E. Gard, and Mr. Andrew T. Weaver, for the help they have given the association in so many ways.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert H. Schacht,
Secretary-Treasurer

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Of the Board of Control, Nov. 2, 1949

Mr. Colby presented the report of the Committee on Purposes and Aims of the Association. The report was amended by adding the following statement as point 4, of the general purposes and aims:

4. To be mindful always that while our society is essentially competitive, it is the function of the speech teacher to emphasize the cooperative group values of speech work.

Points 4 and 5 were re-numbered 5, and 6, respectively. The ~~secretary-treasurer~~ was instructed to ask our advisor in speech, Professor Weaver, for definitions of the eight terms used as contest areas and to present such definitions to the Board for approval at its coming March meeting.

The Board discussed the advisability of setting a minimum time for declamations and orations but took no action upon it, leaving the discretion as to suitable length to the judgment of the judge.

The Board decided to continue its policy of ribbon awards for C ratings in speech and C ratings in drama at the state contests. The Board decided to discontinue the use of special ribbons for contestants, judges, timekeepers, attendants, and coaches at the state contests.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

The Board considered the question as to whether or not Saturday was the best day for speech institutes. It was decided that the determination of the day be left to the sponsoring committee and district chairman involved in each institute.

The Board discussed whether or not there should be a rule prohibiting a change in the declamation or oration used by a student as he progresses from one contest to the next. The Board decided that such a change should not be prohibited.

The Board authorized the secretary-treasurer to make an evaluation of our fall institutes to help the Board to decide whether or not changes should be made in their general pattern.

Mr. A. C. Jones was unanimously re-elected chairman of the Board of Control for another year.

University Debates

You are invited to attend the following home debates of the University of Wisconsin Debate Team, which will be held in Madison on the dates given:

- January 17 Public Debate before Freshman Forum
March 10-11 Delta Sigma Rho Discussion and Debate Tournament.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

The Harry W. Adams Forensic Scholarship

Two University of Wisconsin students are benefiting from a scholarship fund set up by a former Wisconsin debator. They are Miss Paula Ann Cornish, who graduated last June from Fort Atkinson High School and Ben T. Larson, formerly of Chippewa Falls High School, who is now a junior at the University. Each received a \$250 grant because of their outstanding forensic work while still in high school.

Next school year four scholarships of \$250 each will be granted. Any graduating senior of any high school in the state who is planning to come to the university and has participated successfully in the forensic program of his high school is qualified to apply for one of these scholarships. Write to

Professor Winston L. Brembeck
Speech Department,
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wis.

When Mr. Harry W. Adams, Beloit Attorney and manufacturer presented his initial gift of \$2500 to the University of Wisconsin Foundation to promote public speaking activities at the University he said, "I have always considered forensics at least equally as important as many more glamorous student activities, including football. Training in public speaking and debate is of great benefit to young men and women as individuals and helps society by producing leaders. I am convinced that the education I received at Wisconsin in forensics through its debating societies, primarily Hesperia, and under such leaders in this field as Professor Frankenburger, is the most valuable part of my college experience."